

For Information on
4 December 2009

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Development

**Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

The West Kowloon Cultural District Project

PURPOSE

This paper aims to update Members on the progress of the Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) exercise as well as the recruitment of senior executives of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (the Authority).

STAGE 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

2. The Authority attaches great importance to providing ample opportunity for public participation at different stages of the preparation of the Development Plan (DP) of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). Stage 1 of the PE exercise aims at gauging the community's aspirations for and expectations on the planning of the WKCD as a whole, as well as the views of the arts and cultural stakeholders on the requirements of the facilities in the arts and cultural venues.

3. The Stage 1 PE exercise was rolled out on 8 October 2009 and will last for 3 months until 7 January 2010. It consists of a series of public forums and focus group meetings. Among these, there are two forums targeting at students and youth respectively. The Authority has produced a consultation leaflet providing information on the various aspects of the WKCD, including the facilities to be built as well as examples of arts and cultural districts and facilities overseas as possible references so as to facilitate the public to give views. A questionnaire is included in the consultation leaflet, with an electronic version available on the Authority's website.

4. The Chairman of the Consultation Panel has also set up a Facebook discussion platform on the Authority's website. To reach out to the wider public and the tourists as agreed by the Consultation Panel of the Authority, the

Analysis and Reporting Consultant appointed by the Authority has started face-to-face interviews since October 2009 with residents in various districts and tourists at different locations to gather their views on the planning of the WKCD.

5. All the views collected in the consultation will be provided to the three Conceptual Plan Consultants of the Authority for them to take into account in preparing three Conceptual Plan Options for the WKCD, whereas the Project Consultant would prepare the preliminary schedules of accommodation for the various arts and cultural facilities. Apart from views on the planning of the WKCD, views on the expectation of the programme and activities of the future WKCD are also being collected through questionnaires, e-mails, focus group discussions, etc. Such views aim to provide the community reference for the future management of the WKCD to take into account in planning arts and cultural programmes for the WKCD.

6. The schedule of all the PE events has been uploaded to the Authority's website. Members of the public may register on-line or by telephone for attending the public forums. Invitation letters were sent to the individual stakeholder groups in advance of the focus group meetings. Apart from participating in the public forums and focus group meetings, members of the public can express their views on the WKCD through various channels, including sending letters or emails, joining the Facebook discussion group on the internet, or by returning completed questionnaires by post or on line, or at face-to-face interviews. The Chairman of the Consultation Panel and a number of Board/Committee/Consultation Panel members attended the various forums and focus group discussions to hear the public and stakeholders' views directly. The three Conceptual Plan Consultants and the Project Consultant were also present at all the forums and focus group meetings. The Analysis and Reporting Consultant was also present at all the PE events.

Opening Event

7. The opening event for the PE exercise was the forum for secondary and post-secondary students held on 8 October 2009. It was well received, with over 300 students and teachers attending. The students participated actively in the breakout discussion sessions led by experienced facilitators. They came up with useful, innovative ideas on the various aspects of the planning of the WKCD, including the environment, ambience, transport, programme, etc. for the WKCD.

Focus Group Meetings

8. Focus group meetings with 22 categories of stakeholder groups have started from 9 October 2009. Over 50 focus group meetings have been scheduled over the three-month period with more than one focus group meeting for each stakeholder group so as to encourage more stakeholders to attend the meetings. The attendance at the focus group meetings has been encouraging. The stakeholders participated actively in the discussions. They gave views on the requirements for the various arts and cultural venues from both the users' and audiences' perspectives. The list of stakeholder groups is also updated from time to time and uploaded to the Authority's website.

Public Forums

9. Three public forums are scheduled for three Sundays during the three-month period. The first two public forums were held on 25 October (at Science Museum) and 8 November 2009 (at Hong Kong Arts Centre) respectively. Both forums have attracted about 150-180 members of the public to participate. They actively participated in the public forum discussions, and gave their views and suggestions on their expectations of the WKCD. The third public forum will be held in Tai Po Civic Centre on 6 December 2009.

Transparency Measures

10. The Authority has adhered to the principle of maintaining transparency throughout the PE exercise. This is being achieved by the following measures -

- (a) The whole calendar of events of the Stage 1 PE Exercise has been uploaded to the Authority's website at the beginning of the PE Exercise;
- (b) The consultation leaflet (which contains the questionnaire) has been uploaded to the website of the Authority;
- (c) The list of stakeholders and the questions for discussion by the different stakeholders are uploaded to the Authority's website;
- (d) The deliberation of all the public forums and focus group meetings are audio-recorded and uploaded to the Authority's website;

- (e) The public can attend the focus group meetings as observers;
- (f) The media are welcomed to cover all the PE events. The Chairman of the Consultation Panel has briefed the media after each public forum has been held; and
- (g) The views collected during Stage 1 of the PE Exercise will be collated and analysed by the Analysis and Reporting Consultant. The full report of the Analysis and Reporting Consultant will be made public after the end of the consultation exercise. Meanwhile, the transcripts of those forums and focus group meetings which have been held are already uploaded to the website by batches.

WAY FORWARD FOR THE MASTERPLANNING OF THE WKCD

11. After the completion of the Stage 1 PE exercise, three Conceptual Plan Options for the WKCD will be formulated by the Conceptual Plan Consultants. Each consultant is responsible for preparing one Conceptual Plan Option in which a statement on how they have taken on board the public views received in their work should be included. The Authority will present all three Options to the public during Stage 2 of the PE exercise, which is tentatively scheduled for mid 2010. The Authority will seek public views on the three Options, including which Option is the one most acceptable to the public and can serve as the foundation of the DP. The Consultant of the selected Option will also incorporate features of the other two Options preferred by the public and the stakeholders including the arts and cultural and other relevant sectors for the Authority's consideration and decision. The Project Consultant will prepare preliminary Schedules of Accommodation for various arts and cultural facilities in the light of the views received in the Stage 1 PE exercise as well as the views of the artistic professionals of the Authority. The Authority will present the preliminary Schedules of Accommodation to the public and the stakeholders, including the arts and cultural sector, to seek their views.

12. In Stage 3, the Project Consultant will develop the Conceptual Plan Option selected by the Authority into a detailed DP and conduct related technical feasibility studies, including engineering, traffic and environmental impact assessments. The Project Consultant will also prepare detailed Schedules of Accommodation for various arts and cultural facilities in the light of the feedback obtained in the Stage 2 PE exercise for further consultation. The Authority will also seek views from the public and stakeholders on the detailed DP and the detailed Schedules of Accommodation in the Stage 3 PE exercise,

which is tentatively scheduled for 2011, before submission of the DP to Town Planning Board by 2012. A flow chart showing the abovementioned key tasks in preparing the DP is at **Annex 1**.

13. In preparation of the master layout plan, the relevant bureaux and departments, MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and the consultants of WKCD have been staying in close touch. In addition, relevant government departments and the MTRCL regularly briefed the Development Committee of the Authority on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) project. The Board of the Authority also received a detailed briefing by the Government and the MTRCL on the design of the West Kowloon Terminus of the XRL at its meeting held on 26 November 2009. The Board considered that the location of the XRL West Kowloon Terminus next to the WKCD could provide the WKCD with good transport infrastructure, facilitate visitors travelling between the WKCD and the Pearl River Delta and increase people flow in the WKCD. Locating in between the Kowloon Station and the Austin Station, the XRL Terminus is also at a strategic location for bringing people coming from the Pearl River Delta to the WKCD as well as the rest of Hong Kong. In short, the Board of the WKCD Authority is of the view that the location of the XRL Terminus next to the WKCD will bring tremendous long-term benefits to the development of the WKCD.

14. The Board considered that interface between the WKCD and the XRL has to be properly managed so that the development of the two projects will be well-coordinated. In this regard, the relevant government departments and MTRCL will continue to liaise closely with the Authority on planning and construction issues. Members also noted that part of the land within the WKCD will be used as the temporary works areas for the XRL project. Members hoped that the temporary works area within the WKCD (such as the number of barging points along the waterfront) could be reduced and noted that phased handling of the works areas to the Authority can be arranged from 2012 onwards, so as to match with the construction timetable of the WKCD. A copy of the paper on the briefing issued by the Highways Department, which has been uploaded to the Authority's website, is at **Annex 2**.

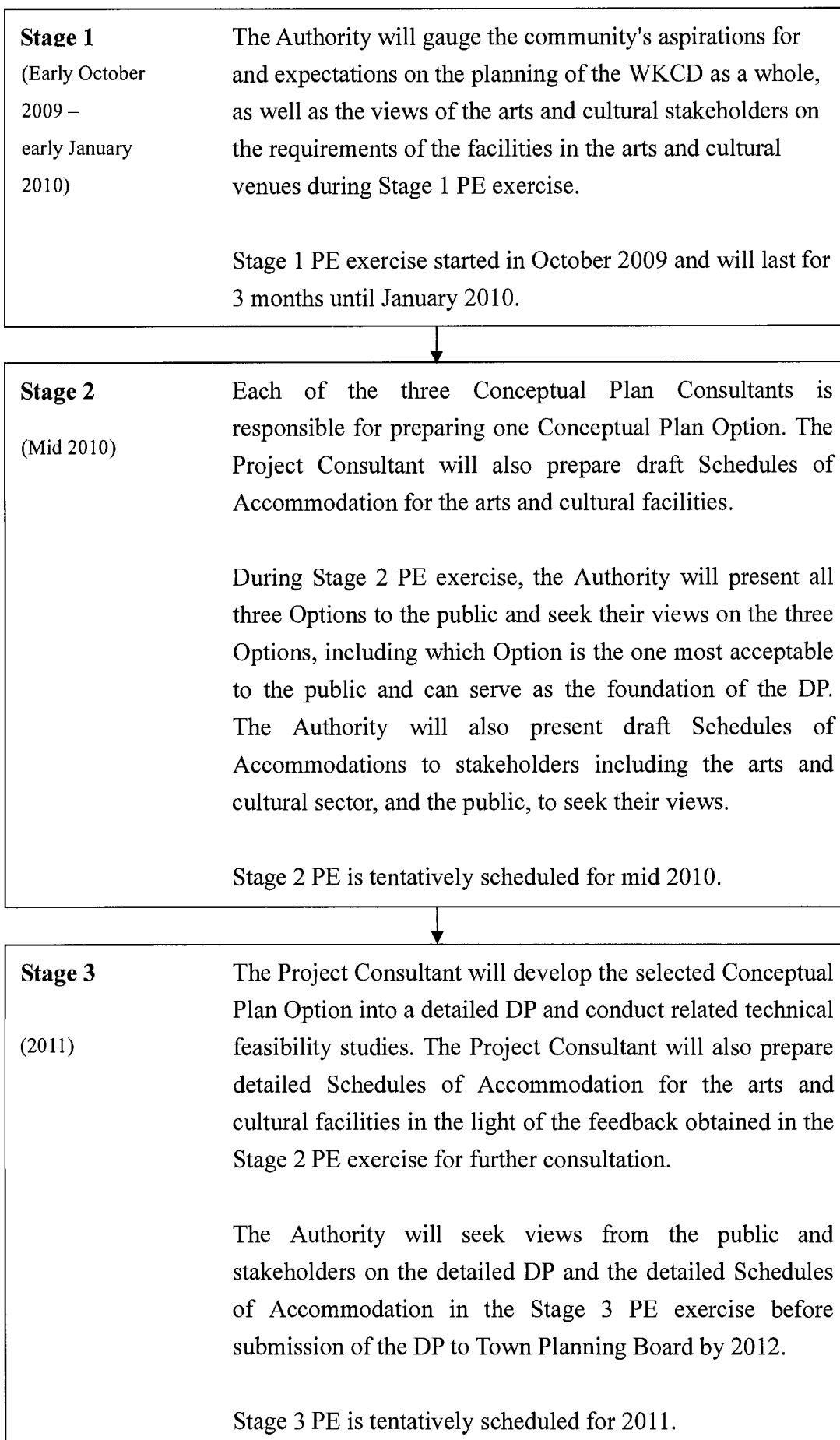
RECRUITMENT OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF THE AUTHORITY

15. The Authority is pressing ahead with the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other senior executives of the Authority, including six Executive Directors, General Counsel and Internal Auditor. The Authority has commissioned head hunters to conduct recruitment exercises for recruiting

the senior executives globally. Requirements for and responsibilities of the various posts are described in the corresponding job advertisements, which have been uploaded to the Authority's website. Recruitment boards comprising members from the Board and various committees of the Authority have been established to consider the recommendations of the head hunters on the shortlists of candidates for selection interviews. Selection interviews for the CEO and the executive director posts are underway. It is expected that the CEO and other executives of the Authority will start to arrive in early 2010.

Home Affairs Bureau
December 2009

MASTERPLANNING OF THE WKCD



**Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District
Authority**

For discussion
on 26 November 2009

WKCD Board/41/2009

**West Kowloon Terminus of the
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link –
Briefing by Railway Development Office,
Highways Department**

PURPOSE

This paper is to brief Members on the latest design of the West Kowloon Terminus (WKT) of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

BACKGROUND

2. The XRL is an express rail, which will link up Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. It will shorten the journey time between Hong Kong and Guangzhou significantly from about 100 minutes to 48 minutes. The journey time from the WKT to Futian Station and the Shenzhen North Station of Longhua in Shenzhen will be about 14 and 23 minutes respectively. Through the Futian Station, Shenzhen North Station, Humen Station in Dongguan and its terminus at Shibi in Guangzhou, XRL passengers can interchange with various domestic, regional and national railway networks. Thus, the Hong Kong section of the XRL is of great strategic importance.

3. The railway scheme of the Hong Kong section of the XRL (including the proposed land and strata to be resumed) were gazetted on 28 November and 5 December 2008; and the amendments to the scheme were gazetted on 30 April and 8 May 2009. The Chief Executive-in-Council has authorized the Hong Kong Section of the XRL scheme, and the notices of authorization were gazetted on 30 October and 6 November 2009. Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, we plan to commence the construction of the Hong Kong section of the XRL by the end of 2009 for completion in 2015.

4. Given the XRL Terminus to be located West Kowloon, the Hong Kong section of the XRL project will have interfaces with the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). In this connection, we have much liaison with the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) in order to work out the

Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

WKCD Board/41/2009

interfacing arrangement, so as to ensure smooth implementation of the two projects. We understand that the design of the WKT is of much interest to the WKCD Board members, we have, from time to time, updated members of the latest progress at the Development Committee meetings. In 2009, we briefed the Development Committee members at its meetings on 14 January, 10 July 2009 and 12 November 2009.

WEST KOWLOON TERMINUS

Introduction

5. The WKT, as the southern terminus of the XRL, will be a large scale underground station at a depth of over 20m with a total of 9 long haul and 6 shuttles platforms (**Annexes 1 and 2**). It is located at the north of the WKCD, between the Airport Railway Kowloon Station on the West and the West Rail Austin Station (AUS) on the East. Terminus entrances will be provided at various levels to match with adjacent developments.

6. Locating the XRL Hong Kong Terminus in the proximity of the WKCD will enable both projects to fully realize their economic benefits. Well served by the XRL, more visitors from the Pearl River Delta will be attracted to the WKCD to take part in the arts and cultural activities; and the higher passenger volume brought by the WKCD will enhance the cost-effectiveness of the XRL. These two projects will complement each other and achieve synergy, bringing greater benefits to our economy. According to current plans, the Hong Kong section of the XRL will be completed in 2015 in tandem with Phase 1 development of the WKCD.

WKT Urban Design Vision and Connectivity

7. The overall design vision for the WKT is to create a vibrant, low carbon emission, and accessible environment which allows a wide spectrum of uses and activities to be taking place at the same time. While the WKT should enjoy a unique and distinctive identity to signify itself as the southern gateway to the Mainland, its design should be subdued and neutral so that it would be able to blend in well with the adjacent developments, especially the WKCD.

8. In designing the roads and pedestrian facilities for the WKT, we will also endeavour to provide a variety of choices to give the WKCD more planning latitude. To strengthen the connectivity of the WKT with the neighbouring railway stations, the WKCD and other development areas, achieving a seamless integration, we are going to link up the whole district with at-grade

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pedestrian zones, footbridges and pedestrian subways (**Annexes 3 and 4**). Improvement will be made to the existing pedestrian subway at the junction of Canton Road and Austin Road. Flexibility has been allowed to create the right ambience for the WKCD and to enrich the experience of the XRL passengers on their way to/from the vicinity.

9. To create a comfortable walking environment, for pedestrians travelling to the south of the WKT will be segregated from the vehicular traffic. Since the Lin Cheung Road-Austin Road Underpass will be built underground, a large-scale at-grade cultural plaza connecting the ground level of the WKT, Kowloon Station, Austin Station and the WKCD will be provided for the pedestrians. There will be a substantial amount of plants at the plaza, measuring approximately 8,900 square metres in area, to create green open space. The spacious pedestrian environment not only will cater for the needs of the development of West Kowloon and a large pedestrian flow, but will also provide quality public open space for the public.

10. Specific to greening of public space, the design concept of the at-grade open space at the WKT will be to encourage spontaneous or improvised activities, so that the public can enjoy their leisure in an all-weather environment. Performing arts activities, cultural exhibitions and the like can also be held to echo with the activities of the adjacent WKCD.

The Terminus

11. The underground terminus composes of 5 major floor levels which accommodates HKSAR and, when co-location implemented, Mainland Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) facilities, departure waiting lounges, underground track area and platforms, passenger arrival and departure halls, duty free, food and beverage facilities, station parking and loading facilities etc.

12. Significant space has been introduced inside the terminus. It allows natural daylight into the interior as well as improves the way-finding for the passenger. It provides a sense of arrival where passenger could see the ground level surrounding through the glazing around the space. The concept is the natural light source being the guide to the arrival passengers exiting the station from the platforms. (**Annexes 5 and 6**)

Extension into the WKCD

13. A portion of the WKT is located below ground within the future WKCD. The impact to the above ground area has been minimized to two vent shaft

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WKCD Board/41/2009

structures and emergency vehicular access that provide track side ventilation and fireman access points to important areas of the terminus.

14. On the planning front, as the WKCD is in the process of drawing up its master layout plan, we have made allowance for flexibility in the design of the WKT to better cater for the future creative planning of the cultural district. For instance, the current scheme allows for the future development of the WKCD on top of the station facilities. The ventilation shafts could be integrated into any future development and a transfer zone has also been provided allowing maximum flexibility to any future development above the station facilities within the WKCD. The WKT is designed on the assumption that the development in the extension area above will be medium-rise structures (up to maximum height of 70 mPD) which do not require sophisticated noise and vibration mitigation works.

Phased Handing Over of Works Sites and Works Areas

15. To facilitate the construction of the WKT, there is a need to use land adjacent to the WKT to locate plant, materials and associated construction facilities. Phased handing over works areas to the WKCD can be arranged from mid 2012 onwards, subject to the layout of the land use as proposed in the selected WKCD Conceptual Plan. As to the land required for the construction of the underground WKT, phased handing over can be arranged from 2014. With close collaboration of the two mega projects working in close proximity, we believe these two projects would be delivered as per planned baselines.

Coordination Amongst Concerned Parties

16. There have been close liaisons and regular meetings between the WKCD and Highways Department for good design and works coordination for the two projects. Furthermore, the consultants of MTR Corporation Limited and of the WKCD have been meeting frequently to resolve interface issues.

ADVICE SOUGHT

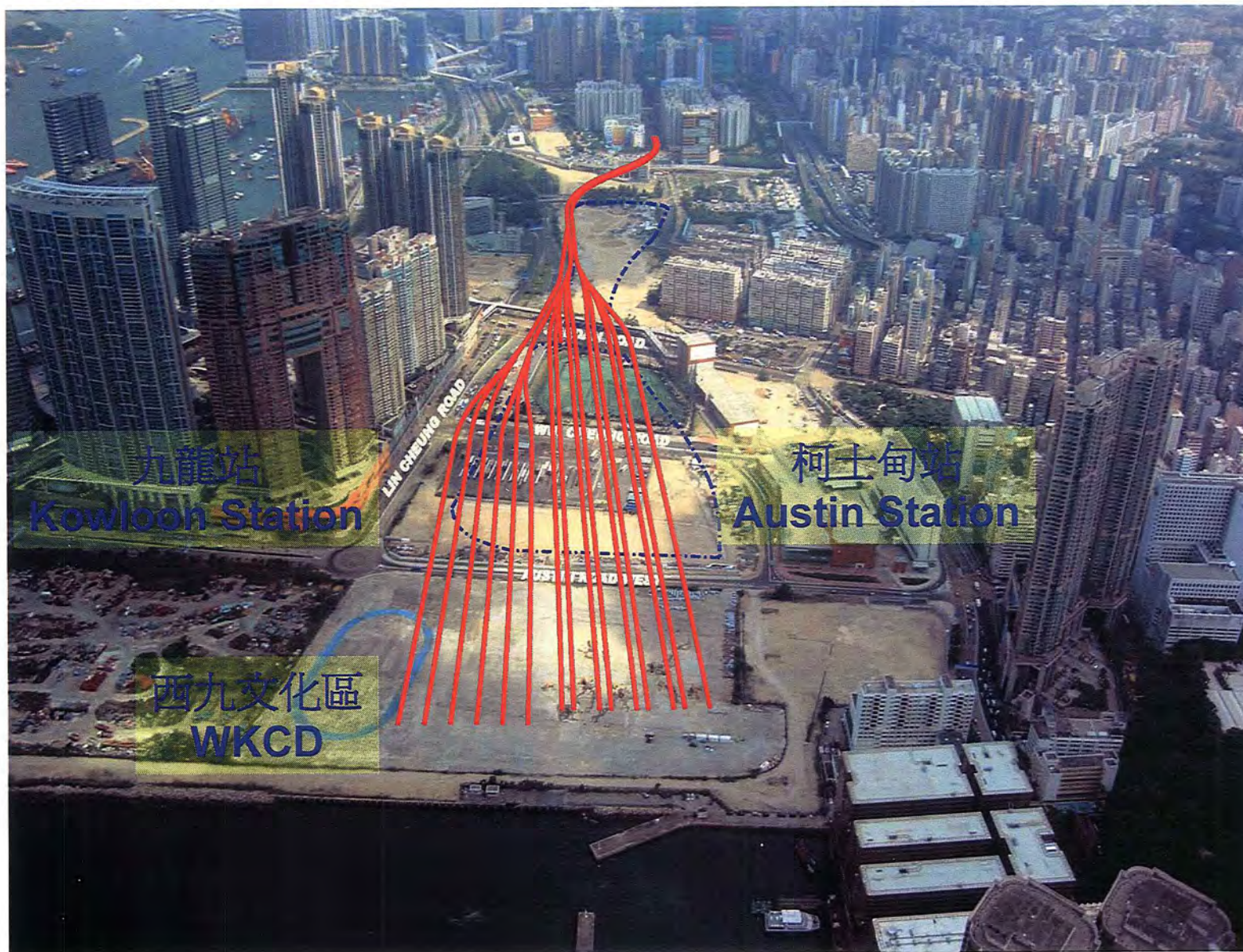
17. Members are invited to note the latest design of the WKT.

**Highways Department
November 2009**

西九龍總站位置

Location of the West Kowloon Terminus

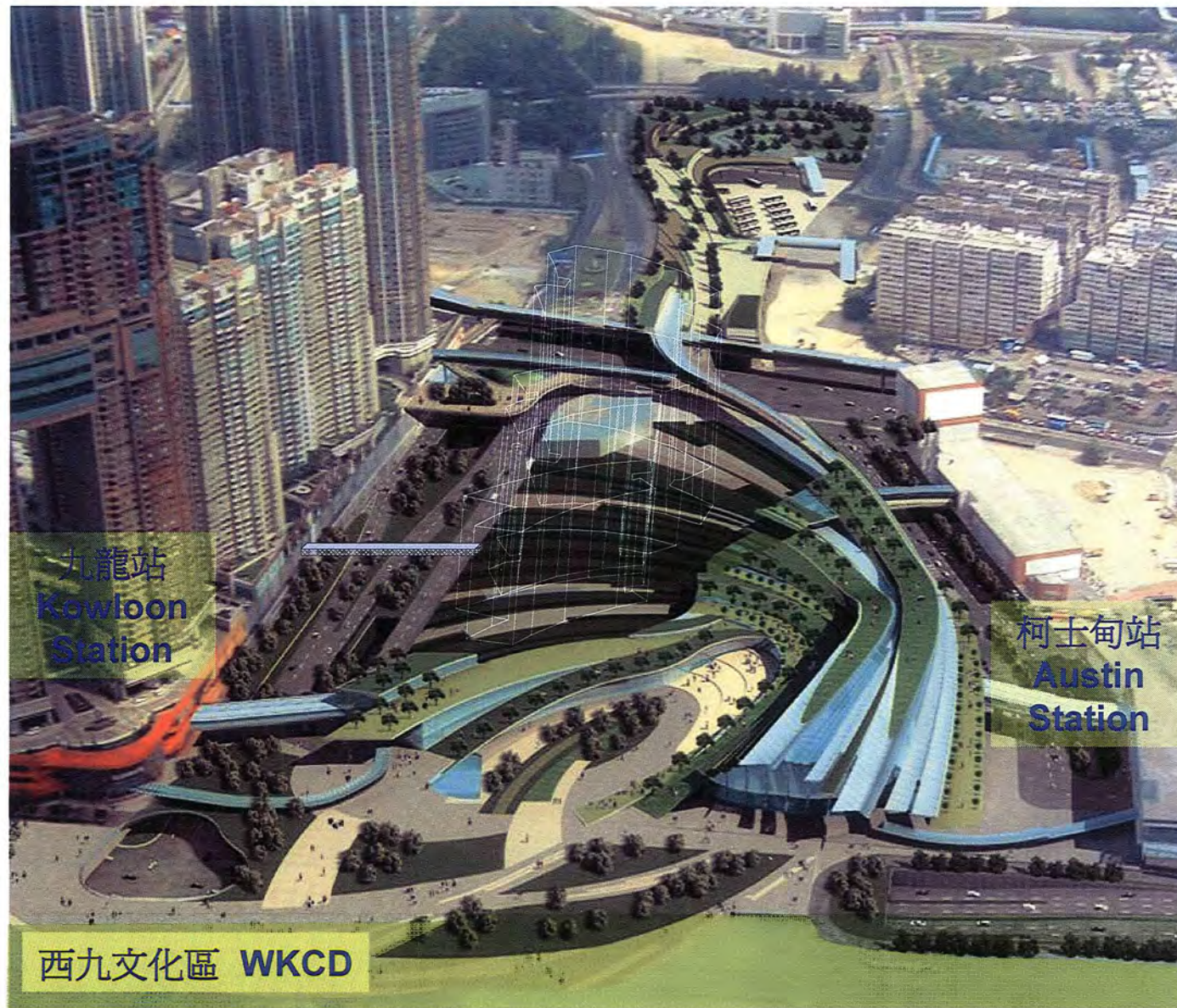
附件一
Annex 1



西九龍總站位置

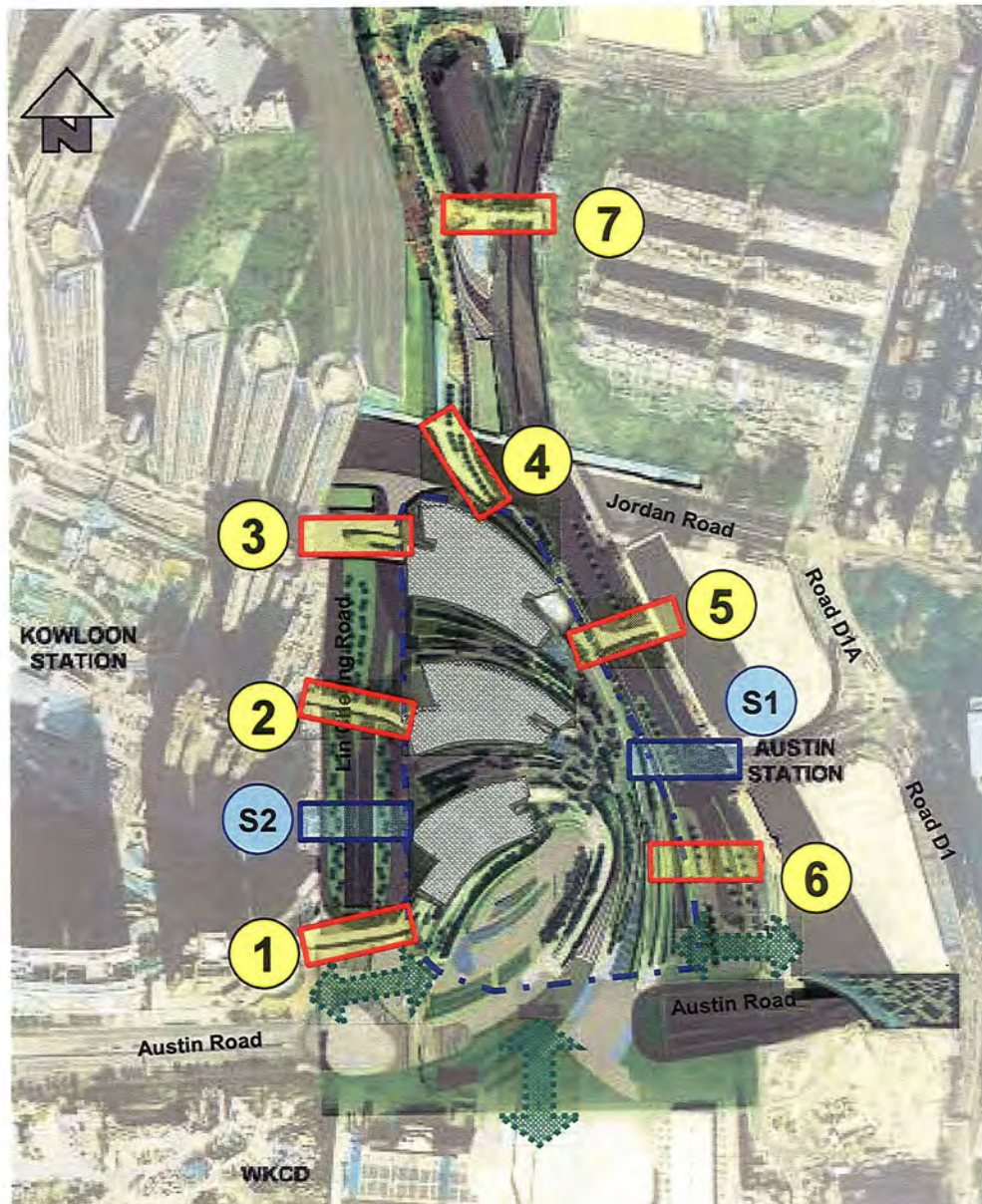
Location of the West Kowloon Terminus

附件二
Annex 2



行人網絡 Connectivity Network

附件三
Annex 3

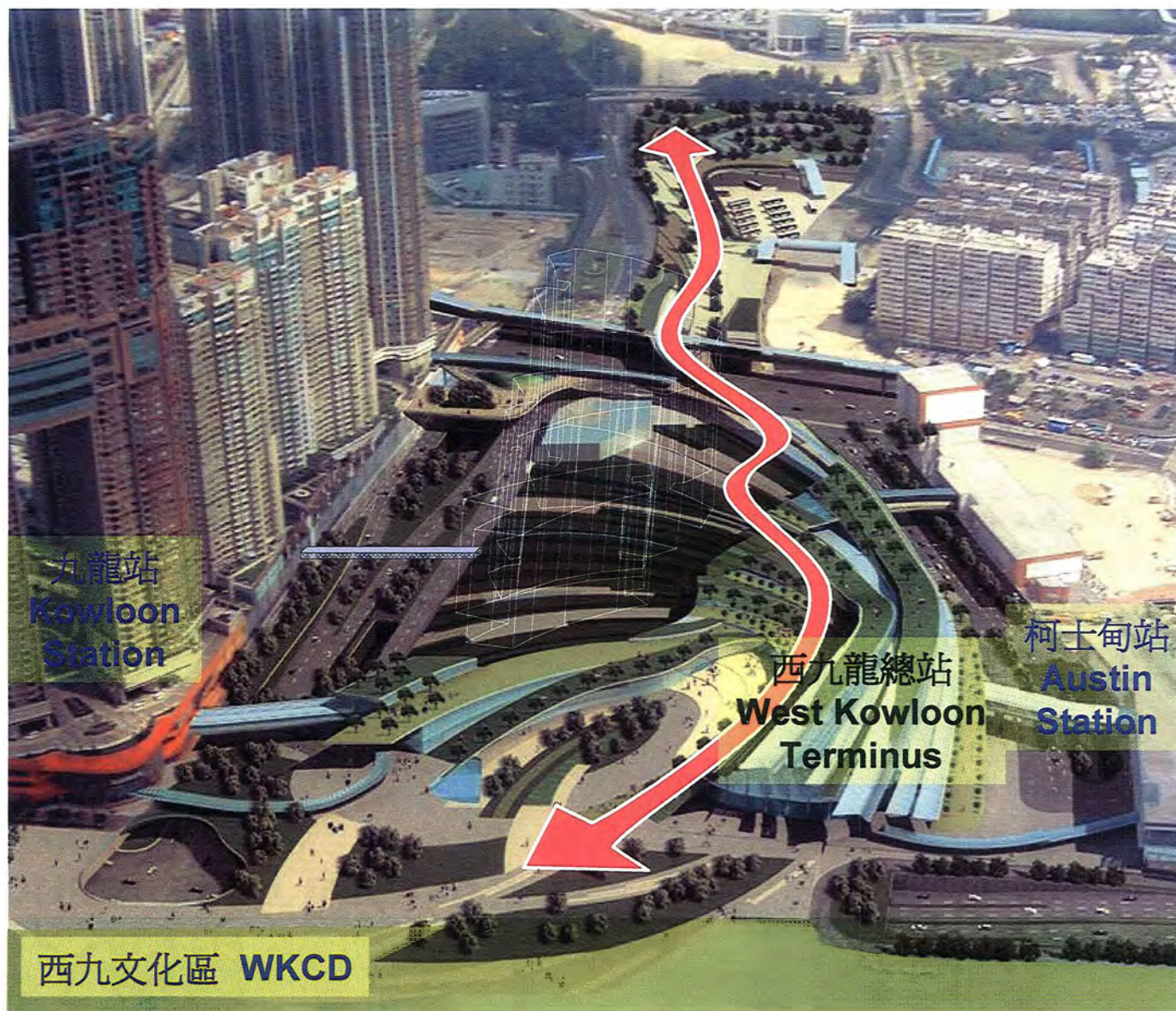


行人天橋 Footbridge	連接點 Connecting Location
①	西九龍總站及圓方的東南角 WKT and the southeast corner of Elements
②	西九龍總站及圓方的正東部 WKT and the east part of Elements
③	西九龍總站及圓方的東北角 WKT and the northeast corner of Elements
④	西九龍總站及佐敦道以北的公共運輸交匯處 WKT and PTI at north of Jordan Road
⑤	西九龍總站及柯士甸站北部 WKT and the north of AUS
⑥	西九龍總站及柯士甸站南部 WKT and the south of AUS
⑦	公共運輸交匯處及八大文樓等 PTI and Man Cheong Buildings etc

- Footbridge 行人天橋
- Subway 行人隧道
- At-grade Walkway 地面行人區

行人網絡 Connectivity Network

附件四
Annex 4

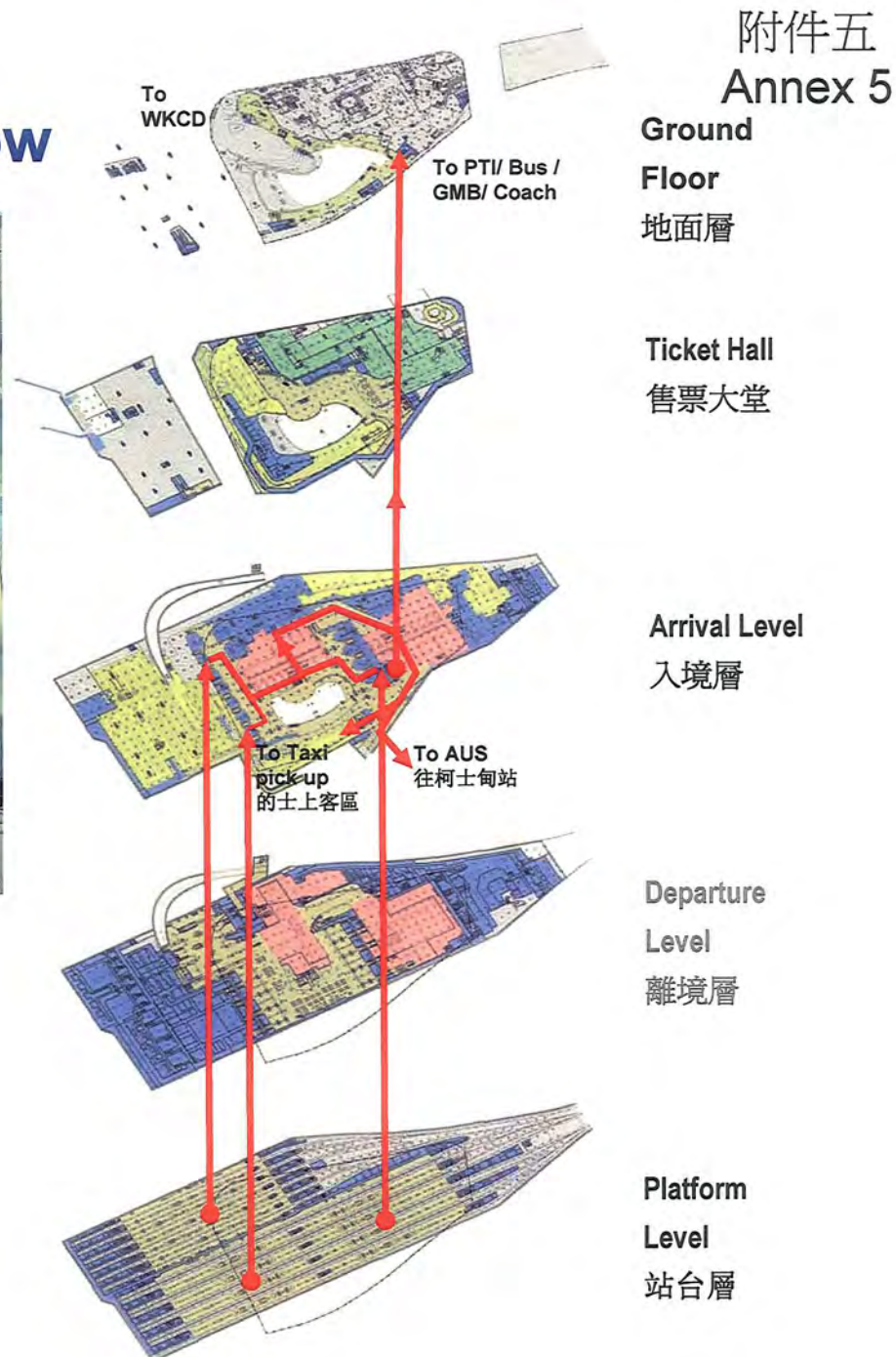


抵港及離港人流路線圖

Station Arrival & Departure Flow



- PLATFORM AREA
- CIQ HALL & OFFICES
- BACK OF HOUSE
- PROPERTY CARPARK
- STATION CARPARK
- ARRIVAL PEDESTRIAN FLOW
- DEPARTURE PEDESTRIAN FLOW



抵港及離港人流路線圖

Station Arrival & Departure Flow



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